

Pest Alert

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NOTE: BEGINNING JANUARY, 2001, PEST ALERT WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE ON THE WEB. FOR ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION, PLEASE EMAIL YOUR ADDRESS TO bspm@lamar.colostate.edu. (Check out our complete web site!)

**POTATO UPDATE (P 1)
ONION UPDATE (P 2)
DRY BEAN UPDATE (P 2)
PARAQUAT DRIFT SPOTS ON CORN SHOWING UP (P 3)
NEED TURF NECROTIC RING SPOT SITES FOR FIELD TRIALS (P 3)
CLINIC CLOSED UNTIL AUGUST 30TH**

POTATO UPDATE

August 20, 2001 UPDATE: There are still no confirmed reports of Late Blight in our region. The only threat at this time would come from long-distance spore showers blown in from some other potato region if and when disease starts there; however, there are no reports of Late Blight anywhere in our multi-state high plains region. See Pest Summary at <http://www.csuag.com>

See Pest Summary. Maintain the protectant fungicide program for Early blight on a weekly basis with products which include EBDCs (maneb, mancozeb, Penncozeb, Dithane, Polyram), Bravo/Equus, SuperTin, Quadris with an adjuvant if recommended on the fungicide label.

Above average moisture with above average high temperatures are forecast for eastern Colorado this week. Scout fields and continue an aggressive program with your protectant fungicides until vine kill.

Most mid-season fields are near or in harvest. Remember to achieve good vine kill, and allow the vines to dry for a couple of weeks prior to harvest to reduce tuber contamination by spores (especially of Late Blight if it should occur in your field).

Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Colorado counties cooperating.
Cooperative Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

ONION UPDATE

August 20, 2001 UPDATE: Purple Blotch forecast models are well above the threshold level of 300 throughout Colorado, so scout aggressively for early signs of disease. The disease was confirmed on seeded onions from all onion areas during recent weeks. Aggressively scout fields and initiate protectant programs. There are still NO reports of Downy Mildew on transplanted or seeded onions, but a fungicide program may be beneficial as cooler weather conditions occur during mid August.

Effective fungicides for Purple Blotch and Botrytis include Bravo, EBDC (maneb, mancozeb, ManKocide, penncozeb, Dithane), and Ridomil package mixes (with EBDC, copper, Bravo/Equus). Bravo/Equus, ManKocide and EBDCs are protectants that may have to be applied every 7 - 10 days, while the Ridomil provides protection against Downy Mildew for 14 days or longer in the threat persists. The EBDC and Bravo/Equus products, Quadris and Rovral are effective against Purple Blotch. Quadris and Rovral will provide extended protection for more than 7 – 10 days. Add an adjuvant if recommended on the fungicide label to improve plant coverage.

Bacterial soft rot and other bacterial diseases are present in most fields throughout Colorado, and you should include a copper-based bactericide (Champ, NuCop, Kocide, ManKocide, etc) plus EBDC and adjuvant as older transplants begin to bulk up. Our research has shown that the addition of an EBDC fungicide (high labeled rates after bulbing) provides more control of bacteria from the copper. As onions continue to increase bulb size, the bacterial disease complex will become more prevalent until cropping. Closely watch your irrigation practices to keep the canopy as dry as possible without stressing bulbs.

Cure harvested onions before and/or after topping to reduce disease spread, especially of Bacterial Soft Rot, Black Mold and Botrytis. Use air curing in the storage shed to further dry out the exposed neck and outer, soft scales.

DRY BEAN UPDATE

August 20, 2001 UPDATE: There are no reports of bean rust in the region. When rust is confirmed in new crop fields this year, fungicide options include Maneb/Manex (30 day preharvest interval), Bravo (14 day interval), and Tilt (28 day interval); Tilt will have a Section 18 label for 2001 in Colorado until August 31. Aggressively scout new crop fields for evidence of early development by rust before implementation of pesticide programs. Monitor COAGMET weather patterns and pest forecast models, and share pest sightings with VEGNET personnel.

There are widespread reports of bacterial diseases in eastern Colorado. Aggressively scout fields and continue the protectant program with copper bactericides through flowering and early pod set; until 2 – 3 weeks preknifing. Add an adjuvant if recommended on the bactericide label. Initiate or continue copper sprays on hail-damaged fields of beans; wait a few days if more than 50% of the canopy was stripped by storm damage to allow new growth to emerge and benefit from the protection. Do not use sulfur-based products as curatives for wounds, sulfur will just burn tissue and act as a defoliant at high rates; wounded tissue will dry out naturally and not be a further disease threat to surviving tissue.

Late fields with a history of white mold should be managed by the timely application of appropriate fungicides such as Topsin at 100 % flowering (every plant with 1 or more open blossoms) to full bloom. The objective is to get the fungicide on to flowers to protect them from being colonized by fungal ascospores on the soil surface and within the plant canopy. Fungicide coverage and penetration into the canopy are critical; 25 – 30 gal/A with a ground rig, 10 gal/A by air, and less than ¼ inch/A during chemigation. Irrigation management with extended intervals between applications can keep the soil surface and plant canopy dry without stressing pod set and seed fill and reduce losses from white mold.

PARAQUAT DRIFT SPOTS ON CORN SHOWING UP

As the chemical fallow on the wheat stubble begins, there will be instances of small discrete white spots showing up. They are most visible in corn but will also be seen in millets and many other plant species. Generally the spots are round but some variation in shape is possible. Depending on the corn variety, concentration, and distance of drift, the spots may have a yellowish halo (margin) around them. The round nature of the spots sometimes can resemble holcus spot, a bacterial disease not known to be in Colorado.

In looking at corn with spotting, be sure to look at adjacent weeds, other fields and vegetation. If the same spotting is on other plants then it is most likely drift and not disease. If there is any doubt please collect samples and get them to your local cooperative extension field staff or send them to us. (Brown)

NEED TURF NECROTIC RING SPOT SITES FOR FIELD TRIALS

We are getting some exciting new chemistry for management of fungi and also have some new biocontrols that have potential to be effective against necrotic ring spot (NRS). As such, Brent and I are trying to find some new sites to set up a new round of trials this fall. We prefer to work with commercial properties and lawn care companies in this work. It helps to get larger areas and have someone professionally trained and interested to work with.

Please contact Brent Swan at (970) 491-6407 or e-mail swanb@lamar.colostate.edu or me, Bill Brown, at (970) 491-6470 or e-mail wbrown@lamar.colostate.edu. There is a steak diner and a good Merlot for the finder of the best plot. (Brown)

CLINIC CLOSED UNTIL AUGUST 30TH

The plant clinic is closed until August 30th. Tamla Blunt, Brent Swan and I are off to Salt Lake City for the annual meetings of the American Phytopathological Society. All 3 of us are making presentations to other plant pathologists. If you get nervous when I come around - just think how many problems 2000 plant pathologists could find. Actually, we are more a danger to one another! And yes, we will be talking about Karnal bunt.

We will be back in the office on the 30th so if you have samples to send in, wait until the 28 or 29th and they will arrive on the Thursday or Friday after we get back. Thank you for your patience and cooperation. (Brown)

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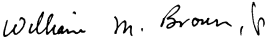
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Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

Sincerely,


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